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The composition of the new government was discussed by the Politburo with Ambassador Semenov down to the last details before negotiations with the other parties were begun. It was necessary to give the National Front full representation in the government and still to maintain SED control in every branch and post. Immediate reaction to any sudden changes required by Soviet policy is now guaranteed even though some ministers are members of the bourgeois parties. This term refers naturally only to the CDU and LDP.

The Russians insisted on the appointment of the three deputy minister presidents and Ulbricht himself occupies the key position. The heads of the CDU and LDP are subject to continuous supervision by him. The SED hopes that this set-up will force Muschke and Kastner to give full public support to all measures, laws, plans, etc., initiated by the Party. Thus the Politburo will be deciding the policies of the bourgeois parties and the latter will lose all importance.

The appointment of Dertinger as Foreign Minister was made at Russian insistence. The original candidate, Dr. Bolz of the NDP, lost out because his connections with the USSR are too well known. It is expected that the new government will formally acknowledge the Oder-Neisse line and it is hoped that the onus of this announcement can be shoved off on Dertinger and thus the CDU. Anton Ackermann of the Politburo will serve as under-secretary under Dertinger and will keep him under surveillance.

Now that elections have been definitely postponed for a year, the Party must undergo an intensive and important weeding-out process. The Party has now taken over the government and it will have to follow the example of the Bolshevik Party in the USSR. This means that sooner or later the other parties must be swallowed up in the State Party.

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